

UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

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Saturday, February 14, 2026

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 121



From the [NY Times](#): *The Trump administration sued Harvard University on Friday, accusing the Ivy League school of failing to produce documents sought as part of a Justice Department investigation into whether its admissions process discriminates against white applicants. The lawsuit is the second government action against Harvard in the two weeks since President Trump abruptly reversed his position on a potential deal to end the administration's pressure campaign on the university.*

After a report in The New York Times on Feb. 2 that Mr. Trump had agreed to give up his demand for Harvard to pay a \$200 million fine in order to help finalize a deal, the president responded on social media with a series of late-night and early morning posts that called for a criminal investigation of Harvard and announced that he had increased the fine to \$1 billion. Four days later, the Defense Department severed its academic ties with Harvard...

Full story at <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/02/13/us/politics/harvard-lawsuit-admissions-doj-trump.html>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:10 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [admissions](#), [diversity](#), [Harvard](#), [politics](#)

Friday, February 13, 2026

I'm tired. This is boring. What time is it?

The Council of UC Faculty Associations

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- [Fight for the Future of Higher Education: Academic Freedom from the Classroom to the Clinic](#)
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- [Liner Note 47. Did The Atlantic's Anti-Woke Bias Spoil its Analysis of Humanities Funding Death? - 2/16/2026](#)
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- [American Association of University Professors](#)
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Topics

Yours truly tuned in via Zoom to the meeting yesterday of the systemwide Assembly of Academic Senate. On the agenda were 1) changes in the procedures for faculty discipline (basically speeding them up) to meet the Regents' new requirements; 2) removing "affirmative action" from the name and wording of a Senate committee; and 3) demanding policies that would require notifying anyone whose name was requested by the feds.

All of these items might seem likely to provoke controversy. But the first two were passed overwhelmingly with no real discussion. The third was the product of a series of Assembly meetings that modified the proposed resolution. But at this meeting, there was a motion to table the resolution, i.e., have no discussion and no vote on the substance. There was also a strong vote to table. And the meeting ended early.



Posted by California Policy Issues at [6:44 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [academic freedom](#), [diversity](#), [UC Regents](#)

New Industry?

Apparently, there is an organization - which may be an offshoot of America First Legal - formed with the intent of suing UC for reverse discrimination. Yours truly spotted the Facebook ad shown on this posting on Feb. 10. If you click on the ad, the following information appears:

SARD is a new organization, founded in the fall of 2024, by a coalition of people who have observed the University of California's brazen reversion to the use of large racial preferences in its admissions practices. We include students (and parents of students) who have been rejected by the UC schools even as classmates with substantially lower academic credentials -- but a more favorable skin pigmentation -- have been accepted. We include academics who have served on UC admissions committees, or studied UC admissions practices, and have been shocked by the university's use of quota-like policies to radically distort its admissions standards. And we include public interest lawyers who believe that a suit against UC for these practices can and will be successful...

The group filed a lawsuit against the Regents dated Feb. 3, 2025, on behalf of unnamed White and Asian applicants, which can be found at:

<https://sard.law/static/sard/pdf/COMPL%20Students%20Against%20Racial%20Discrimination%20v.%20University%20of%20California%20Complaint.66ef1c3f72fc.pdf> and

<https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.cacd.956209/gov.uscourts.cacd.956209.51.0.pdf>.

The case is now in the discovery phase.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [admissions](#), [UC](#), [UC Regents](#)

Straws in the Wind - Part 252

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From [Inside Higher Ed](#): North Carolina State University fired the assistant director of its LGBTQ Pride Center on Friday after an anti-DEI activist group secretly recorded him appearing to violate system policies... Employees who were secretly recorded by Accuracy in Media at the University of North Carolina campuses in Charlotte and Asheville and Western Carolina University no longer work at those institutions.

"We're still able to do the things that we want to do, have these events and programs. We have to be a little more careful," Jae Edwards, the N.C. State employee, was recorded saying. "It's been very interesting navigating now that there's certain words we can't use anymore ... 'cause things like 'equity' implies inequities," he said. "As a marginalized group, we're used to these things, and we're used to going around them and finding ways around."

A spokesperson for the university told the News & Observer the institution was made aware of the video on Thursday, Feb. 5. "The individual seen in the video had no role in policy or compliance decisions and was not authorized to speak on behalf of the university," the spokesperson said. "The staff member no longer works at the university..."

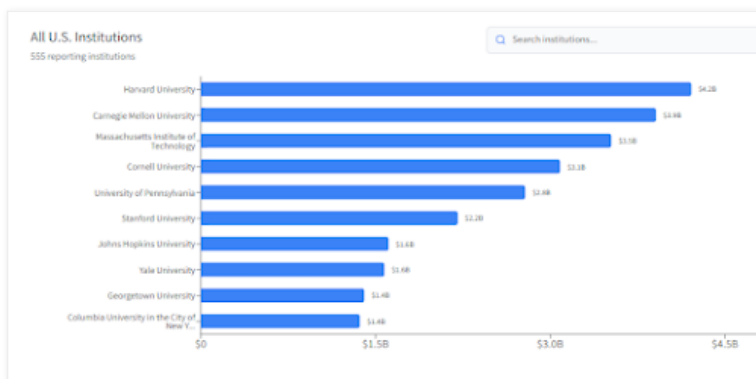
Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2026/02/09/nc-state-fires-secretly-recorded-lgbtq-pride-employee>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:20 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [diversity](#), [North Carolina State U](#), [politics](#)

Thursday, February 12, 2026

Foreign Funding



The US Dept. of Education has released a list of foreign funding of US universities in 2025. As can be seen above, having a med school helps in obtaining such funding. But prestige also helps. (MIT doesn't have a med school.)

UCLA ranks as number 23 with over \$750 million.

Source: Section 117 Foreign Gift and Contract Public Transparency Dashboard:

<https://www.foreignfundinghighered.gov/>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [10:31 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [Carnegie Mellon](#), [Columbia](#), [Cornell](#), [Georgetown](#), [Harvard](#), [Johns Hopkins](#), [MIT](#), [Stanford](#), [U of Pennsylvania](#), [UCLA](#), [Yale](#)

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Contributors

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Sometimes you lose

Inside Higher Ed reports that a UCLA faculty member has had an antitrust case against journal publishers dismissed:

A federal judge last week dismissed a lawsuit filed by researchers alleging that major corporate publishers colluded to control the publishing market... Lucina Uddin, a professor at the University of California, Los Angeles, filed the lawsuit in 2024 against the six largest for-profit publishers of peer-reviewed academic journals—Elsevier, Wolters Kluwer, John Wiley & Sons, Sage Publications, Taylor & Francis and Springer Nature—and their trade association, the International Association of Scientific, Technical and Medical Publishers (STM). The lawsuit argued that the publishers violated the Sherman Act, a federal antitrust law, by having researchers peer review articles for free, forbidding the submission of manuscripts to more than one journal at a time, and preventing authors from freely discussing submitted manuscripts.*



To support that argument, plaintiffs pointed to STM's International Ethical Principles for Scholarly Publication, which references those practices. But Hector Gonzalez, a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, said that was insufficient evidence of anti-trust violation... Gonzalez also declined to allow the plaintiffs to update the suit, writing that "further amendment would not change the result."

Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2026/02/06/antitrust-lawsuit-against-academic-publishers-dismissed>.

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*<https://www.psych.ucla.edu/faculty-page/lucina/>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [UCLA](#)

Straws in the Wind - Part 251



From the Chronicle of Higher Education: Last summer, Bonnie Shucha, a librarian at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, sat in her office listening to an AI voice attempt to distill her 41-page research article on scholarship visibility into a five-minute podcast. So far, the new feature on the popular site Academia.edu <https://www.academia.edu/> was struggling mightily. "Bonnie suggests things like engaging with broader audiences via social media, or just sharing drafts of papers on platforms like, oh, you know, Academia.edu. A little plug there," the podcast voice said. "I was like, Well hey, wait a minute, you're putting words into my mouth," said Shucha, who serves as an associate dean for library and information services and director of the law library at Wisconsin's law school.

Shucha is not the only scholar who says Academia.edu's new podcast feature is misrepresenting their research. They've taken to Academia.edu's own feedback forums to raise their objections, calling it "offensive," "borderline impersonation/plagiarism," and accusing the

platform of using "human work ... as a free content farm for AI training." Several academics have left the platform altogether in protest.

...Academia.edu was created in 2008 for academics to upload their work and provide the research community with an open knowledge database, among other things. Today, the site hosts 55 million papers... Academia.edu started using artificial intelligence a few years ago to summarize research and recommend papers visitors might be interested in.

...The site recently began offering users the ability to generate AI comic strips out of their work. Shucha tried the feature on an article she wrote about the first anti-sex trafficking movement in U.S. history. The resulting four-panel comic includes a joke about a "steamy expose [sic]," misspelled words, and bold type apparently meant to suggest the sounds of an assault taking place. "Gwa lump gya ra grow."

Full story at <https://www.chronicle.com/article/an-ai-bot-is-making-podcasts-with-users-research-these-scholars-arent-impressed>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:20 AM](#) No comments: 

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